

THIRD SECTOR LEEDS UPDATE

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND - PILLAR 3

December 2023

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About the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is funding from the Government to enable local places across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to invest in three local priorities:

- Communities and Place
- Support for local business
- People and Skills

It replaces EU structural funds.

Pillar 3 of UKSPF (People and Skills) has three lots open for bids now, with an extended deadline of 12 noon Friday 12th January 2024. You can find out more about Pillar 3 opportunities [here](#).

TSL's role

TSL has been working to ensure that the third sector has an opportunity to benefit from UKSPF investment in the city since the fund replaced previous European funding. As a new funding regime, it has not been without its challenges, with local funds impacted by decisions and delays at Government level.

TSL have been involved in meetings and discussions over the past couple of weeks to understand the bidding landscape and advocate for third sector involvement. Here's what we know so far:

Call Area 1 - Work and Health Programme

- Minimum – £250,000
- Maximum – £4,000,000

Knaresborough-based Better Connect are heading up a third sector bid across West Yorkshire – find out more about their approach [here](#).

Leeds City Council will submit a bid to deliver a programme of interventions to enable people who are not currently working due to physical and/or mental ill health to step closer to the labour market. The bid is built on the principles of 'Stronger Families,' a six-year programme from 2017 to early 2023, delivered across Leeds and Bradford with European Structural and Investment Fund support (ESIF).

We would encourage all third sector organisations who may be interested in being involved in this programme to attend the Bidders Information Event on 16 January 2023 - more details [here](#).

Call Area 2 – Community Grants Programme

- Minimum – £2,000,000
- Maximum – £4,000,000

Groundwork have signalled their intention to bid for this call, building on their previous experience of delivering ESF grant programmes. TSL and several infrastructure partners across West Yorkshire have signalled their support for Groundwork (Local authorities are understood to not be bidding for this work).

Call Area 2 – Youth Unemployment Programme

- Minimum – £2,000,000
- Maximum – £2,000,000

The five Local Authorities across West Yorkshire will be bidding for this work, with no opportunity for the involvement of third sector partners.

Learning

The TSL Leadership Group have agreed to focus on seeking to ensure opportunities for third sector partners are realised, both during the current bidding process and post-award. There is also learning around this pillar and the previous experience of UKSPF in the city, which we will seek to share via Chair Kim Groves and her role in the UKSPF Impact and Influence Group.

About Third Sector Leeds

TSL is the forum in Leeds that promotes, represents and advocates for civil society groups and organisations (known as the 'Third Sector') in Leeds.

We work closely with large organisations that set the direction for the city, including the Council and the Integrated Care Board (NHS) in order to:

- Influence decisions that affect the communities the third sector works with.
- Ensure that as many third sector organisations as possible, particularly the smaller ones, are involved in discussions on city-wide challenges and solutions.
- Ensure third sector organisations can access information and support to help them play their part in changing Leeds for the better.

The work of TSL is guided by a Leadership Group who contribute from the perspective of the field in which they are active (e.g. young people, health and wellbeing, LGBT+). Members are nominated by city forums with particular interests. Where no forum exists, positions are advertised and TSL Leadership Group members approve representatives into their position based on their skills and experience.

Details of the membership of TSL's Leadership Group are available [here](#)